

Speciation and Attenuation of Arsenic and Selenium, and Fate of Mercury in Coal Combustion Products

DOE/NETL's Mercury Control
Technology R&D Program Review

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Technical Approach

Three Components

- Release – Field Leachate Characterization
- Transport – Attenuation Studies
- Prediction – Geochemical and Transport Modeling

Technical Approach

- **Leachate Characterization at 25 sites**
 - Analyses for broad range of inorganic analytes
 - Speciation of As, Se, and Cr
 - Speciation of Hg at 5 sites
- **Attenuation Studies of As and Se Species at 3 Sites**
 - Laboratory sorption studies on ash and soils
 - Leachate and groundwater sampling

Leachate Characterization

- **Laboratory Leaching**

- More than 60 methodologies
e.g., TCLP, SPLP, SGLP, ASTM, MEP, MWLP
- Not representative of field conditions
- Good for indexing, evaluating processes
- Integrated Leaching Framework

- **Field Leachate Characterization**

- Representative of field conditions
- Reflects variability of site conditions
e.g., multiple fuels, heterogeneous infiltration
- Uncontrolled, difficult to evaluate processes

Field Leachate Characterization

2003 Sampling Summary

- 14 Sites
 - 12 ash sites, 2 FGD sites
 - 6 ponds, 7 landfills, 1 minefill
 - 5 subbituminous, 8 bituminous, 1 mixed
- 32 Field Leachate Samples
 - wells, lysimeters, leachate collection systems, drive point, ash cores, ponds, sluice lines
- 18 Samples for Low Level Mercury
 - total Hg, monomethyl and dimethyl Hg

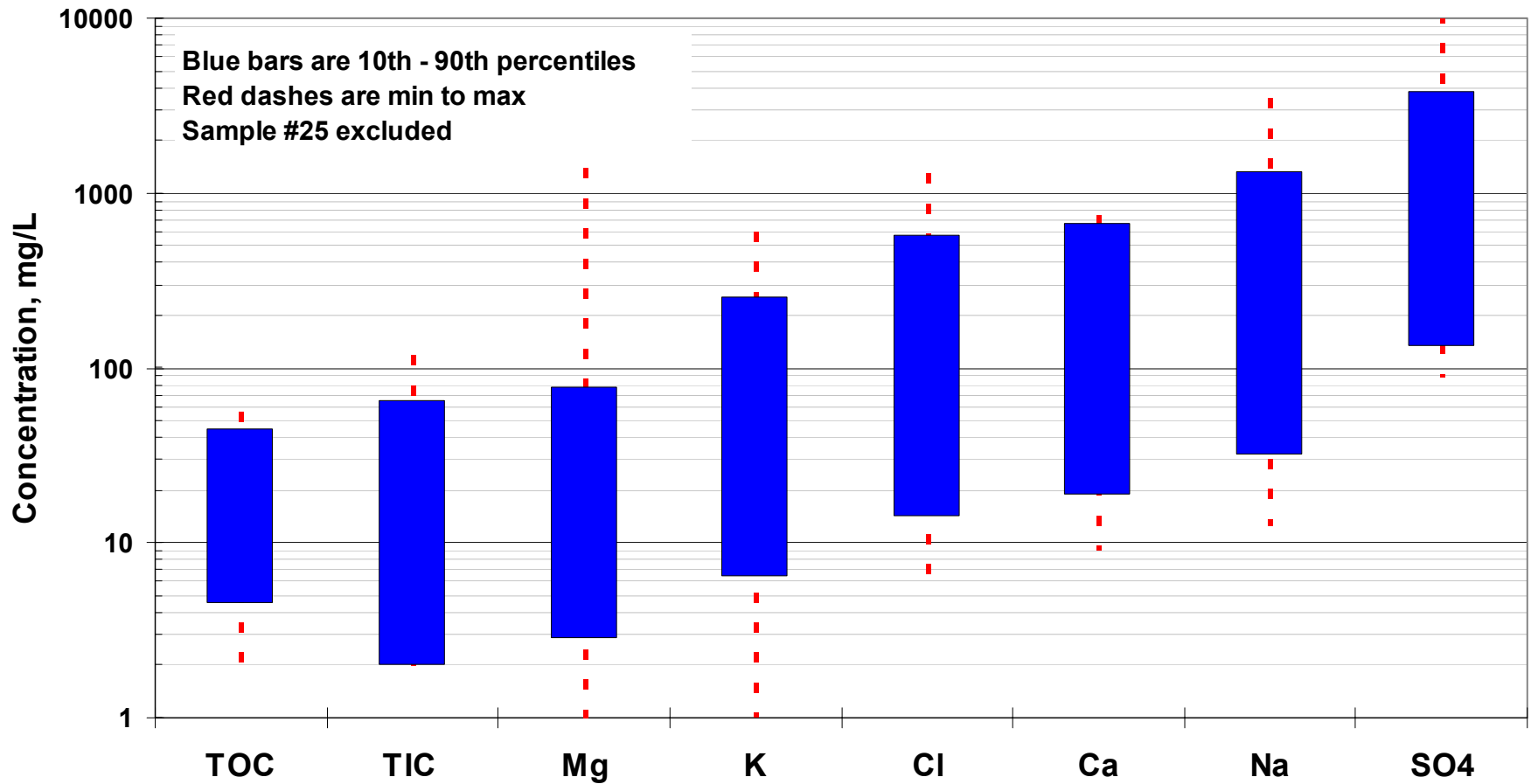




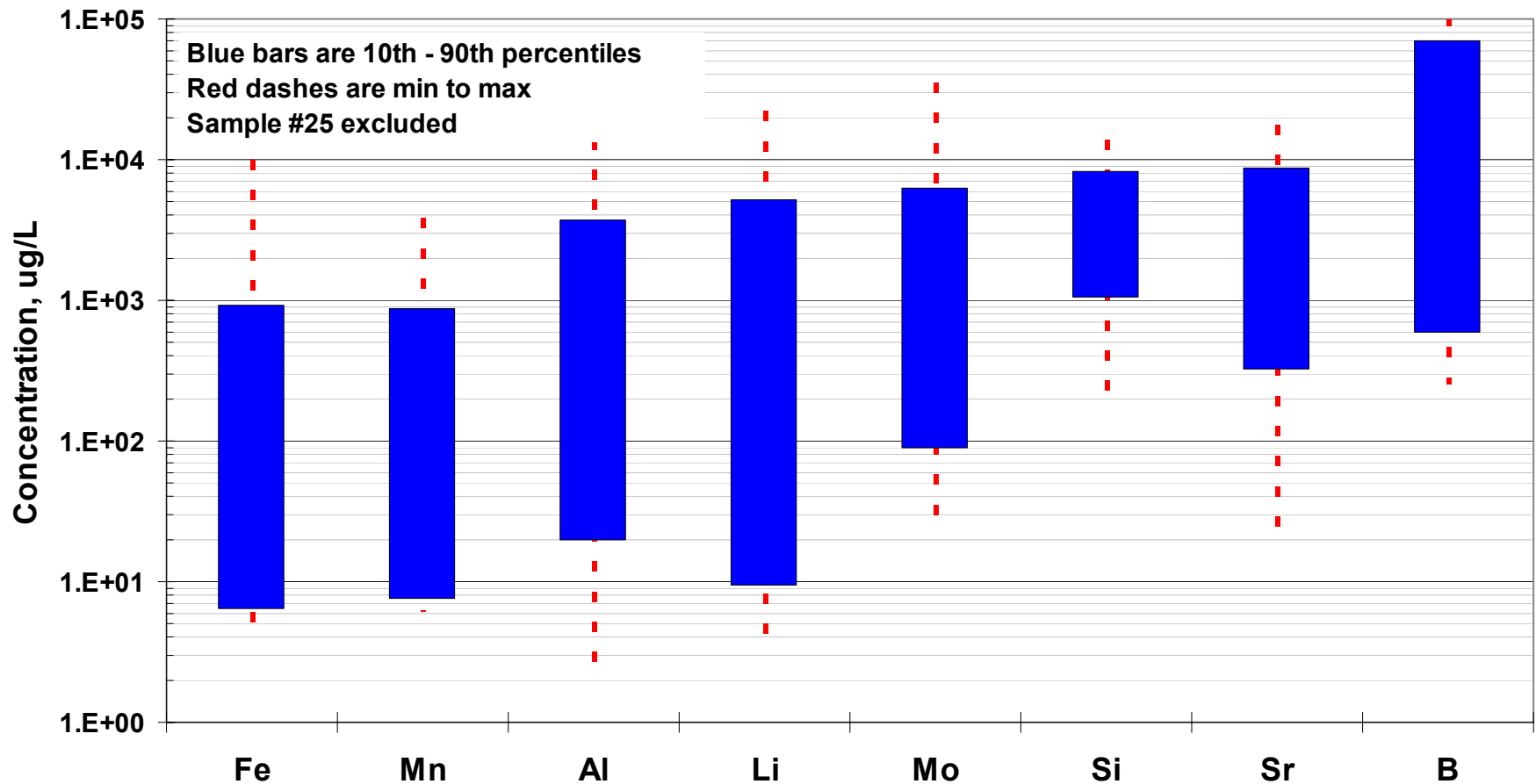




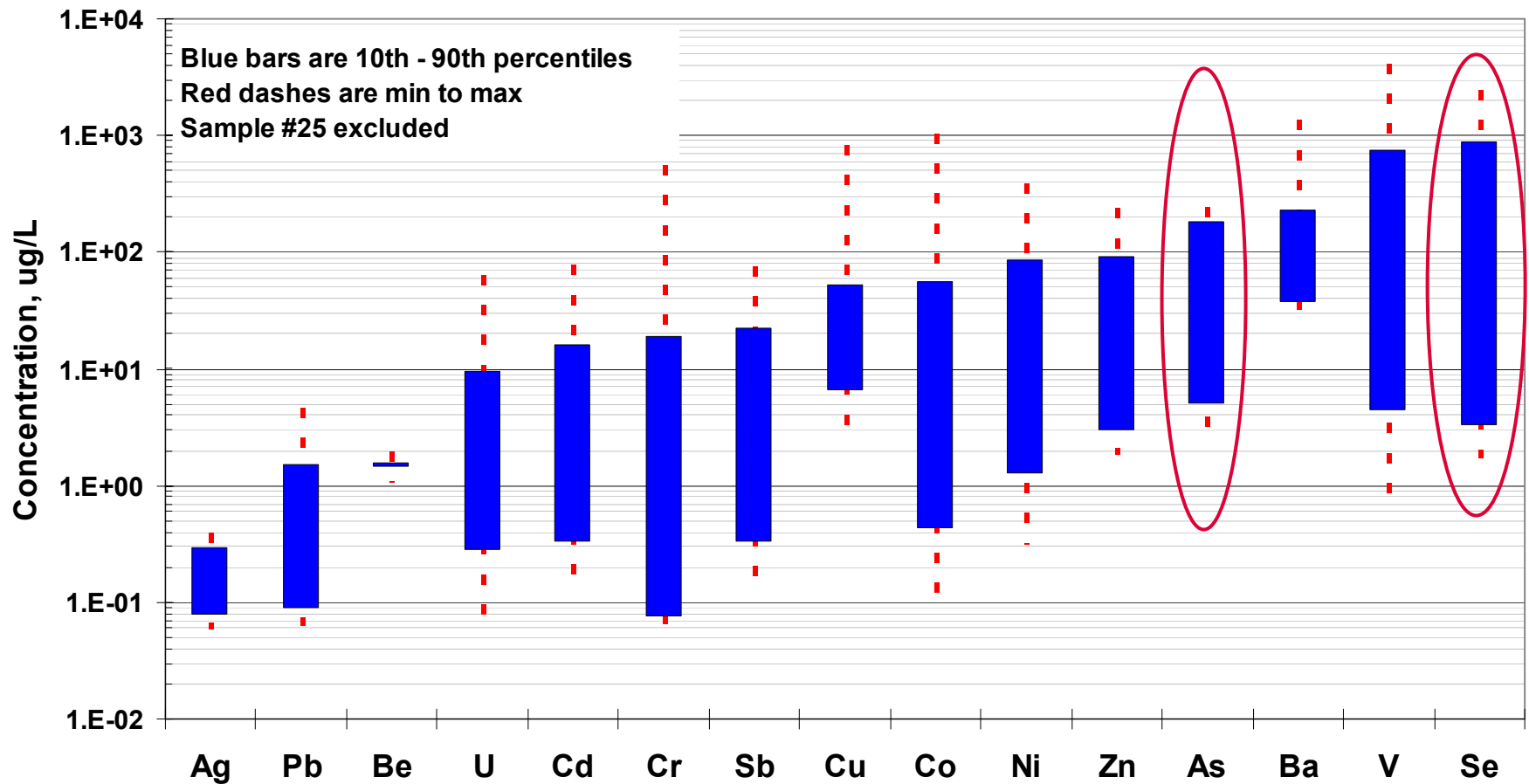
Field Leachate – Major Constituents, mg/L



Field Leachate – Minor Constituents, ug/L



Field Leachate – Trace Constituents, ug/L



Mercury

- **Lab Leaching Data**

- Very low mercury concentrations in SPLP leachate, less than 15 ng/L
- Lower concentrations in samples containing activated carbon

- **Preliminary Field Data**

- Very low mercury concentrations
- Total dissolved Hg <20 ng/L, median 2 ng/L
- Dissolved monomethyl Hg <7 ng/L, median 0.1 ng/L
- Dimethyl Hg not yet available

Arsenic and Selenium

- **Preliminary Leachate Data**

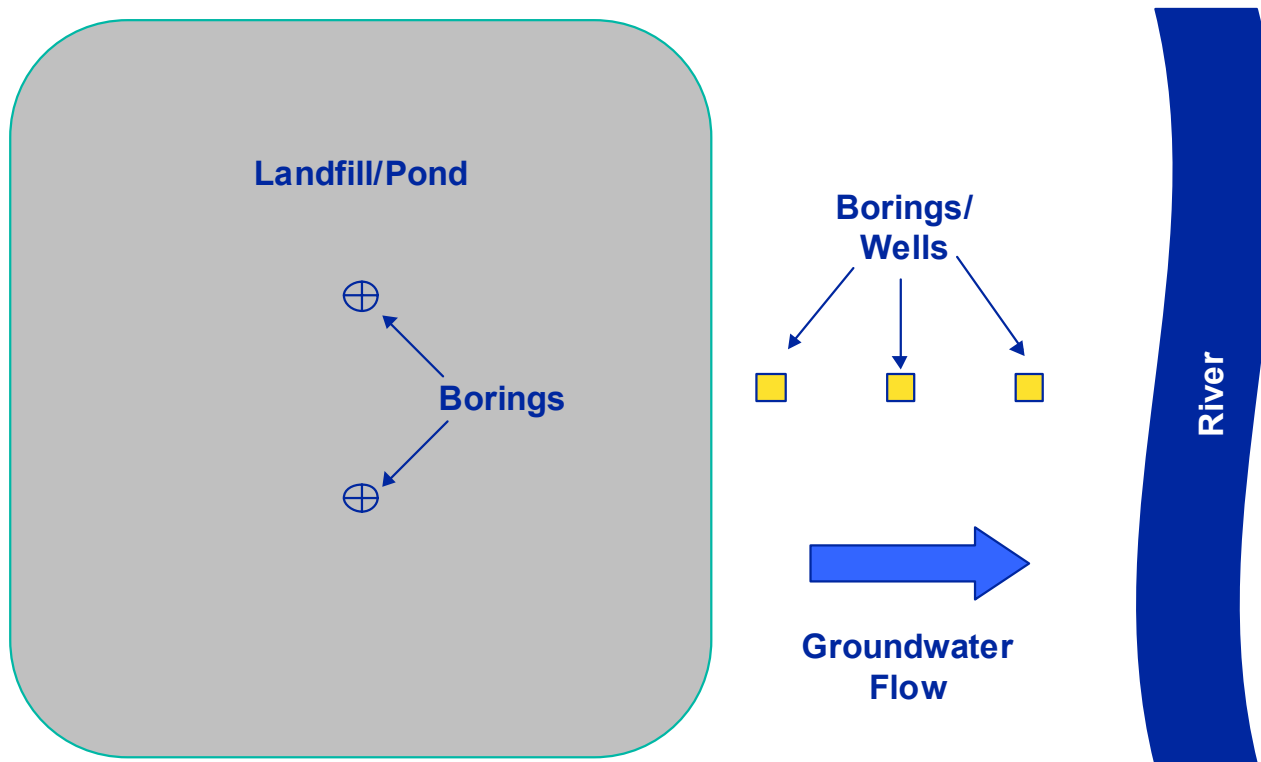
- Arsenic range: 3 to 240 ug/L
- Selenium range: 2 to 2000 ug/L
- Both arsenic and selenium exhibit highly variable speciation
- Possibility of increased selenium leaching from carbon injection ash (laboratory, one sample set)





Arsenic and Selenium Attenuation

Arsenic & Selenium Transport



Arsenic and Selenium Attenuation

- **Ash Characterization**

- Total Composition
- Sequential Leaching of Ash
- Adsorption Capacity of Ash
- Speciation

- **Soil Characterization**

- pH
- Texture
- Organic Matter
- Total Iron and Manganese
- Extractable Iron and Manganese (CBD Extraction)
- CEC and AEC
- Base Saturation
- Clay Mineralogy (XRD)

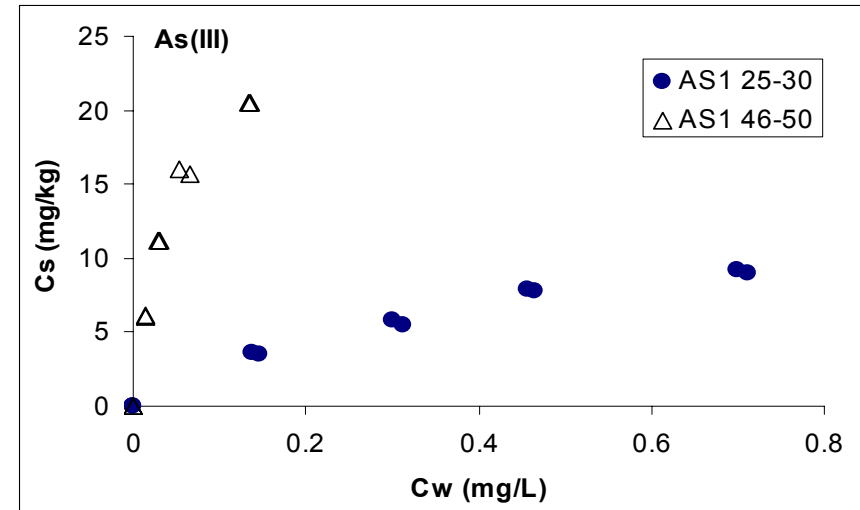
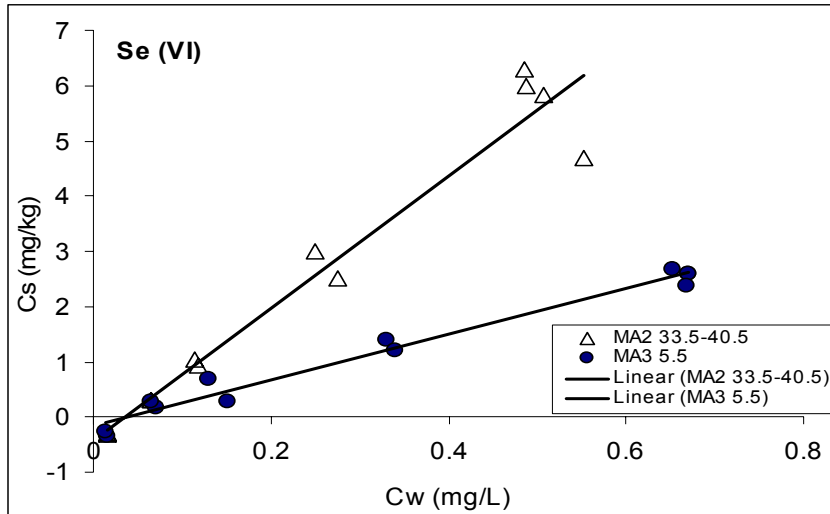
Arsenic and Selenium Attenuation

- **Batch Studies**

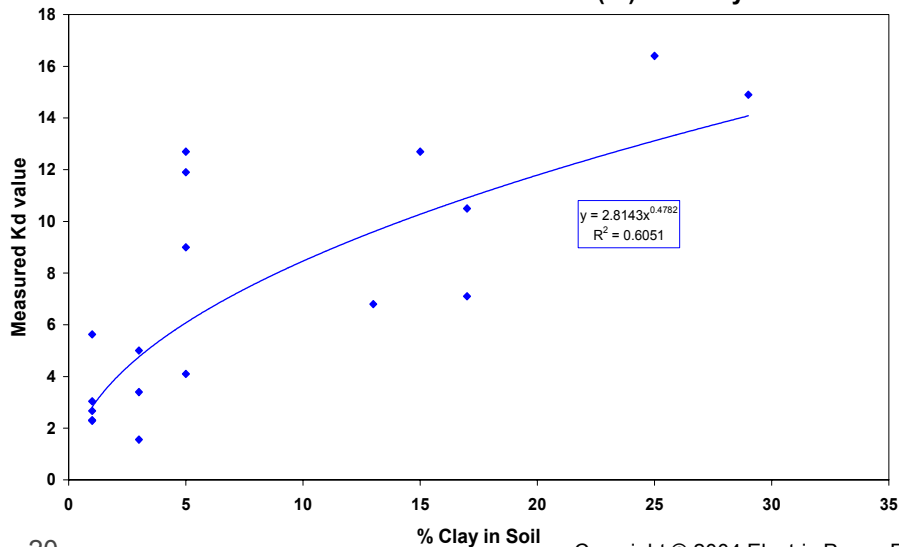
- As(III), As(V), Se(IV), Se(VI)
- 7 concentrations in leachate range (e.g., 50- 2000 ppb)
- Single and multi-solute solutions
- pH dependence
- Sulfate competition
- Leachate matrix effects
- Reversibility

- **Column Studies**

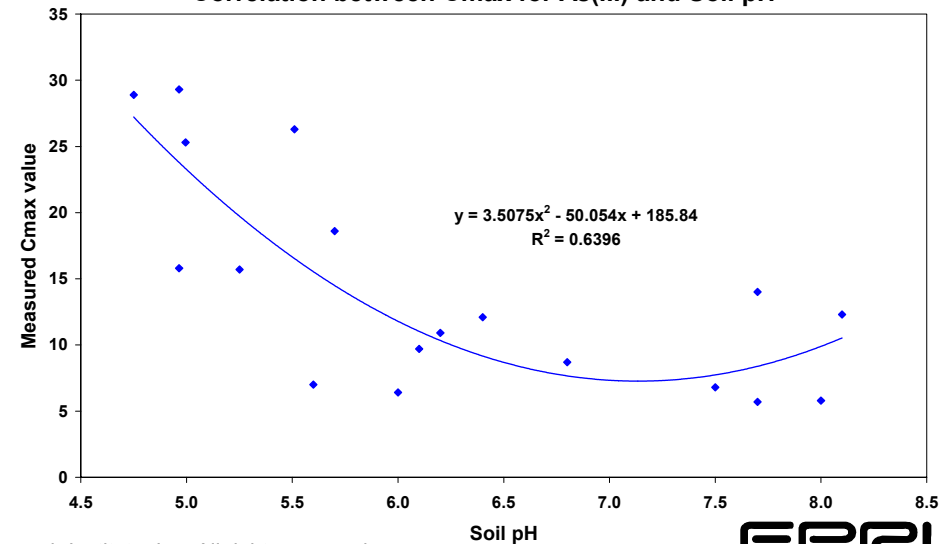
Arsenic & Selenium Attenuation



Correlation Between Measured Kd for Se(VI) and Clay Content



Correlation between Cmax for As(III) and Soil pH



Arsenic and Selenium Attenuation

- **Arsenic Sorption**

- Nonlinear (concentration dependent)
- Single point As^{+3} Kd values: 7 to 400
- Single point As^{+5} Kd values: 15 to >1000

- **Selenium Sorption**

- Mostly linear
- Se^{+4} Kd values: 15 on 30
- Se^{+6} Kd values: 1 to 16

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